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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 34 | Min 23 | Humidity 68% Partly cloudy sky Sensex 77,606 | Nifty 23,591 | Gold 89,840 | Silver 1,02,000 | Dollar 85.78 | Euro 92.23 | GBP 110.85

Bin gone

CITY PAGE 2

Absence of waste bins, appearance of black spots on Church Street has raised question marks over maintenance

Price we pay

CITY PAGE 7

With milk price, power tariff and toll charges set to rise, families brace for dent in their household budgets

Despite prices being set at Rs 600-700 per litre last year, private water tanker operators continue to charge double the amount from customers as regulation remains lax

EVERY DROP IS PRECIOUS IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

BWSSB has hired 200 tankers to supply Cauvery water, but not many know of this service

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With summer setting in, the menace of private water tankers has resurfaced in Bengaluru, with consumers alleging that operators are charging double the usual rates. Authorities who should be curbing this exploitation, seem to be missing in action.

Sandhya Gowda, a home maker, told BM that this is the scene every year. "Many citizens rely on private tankers for water supply. However, last year's severe water shortage led to unchecked price hikes by tanker operators. Following public complaints, the district administration had stepped in and fixed water prices. Despite this regulation, many private tankers are now charging twofold in various areas."

Pricey areas

Residents of Manjunath Nagar, Ramaiah Layout, Dasarahalli, Peenya, and Bagalagunte, where the official price was set at Rs 600-Rs 700, now report paying much higher rates. In Kengeri, RR Nagar, Nagadevanahalli, Shirke, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar (Kenchanapura Cross), KR Puram, and Kadugodi, the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

A scene from last year's scorching summer in city

> "Following public complaints, the district administration had stepped in and fixed water prices. Despite this regulation, many private tankers are now charging twofold in various areas
> —Sandhya Gowda, citizen

Barking up the wrong tree?

While contact details of officials to be contacted for getting rid of weak trees made available, not much awareness on whom to call if trees being felled illegally

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The Forest Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has published a list of officials across all eight zones in the BBMP limits.

These officials can be contacted for the removal of 'dangerous' avenue trees in the city. The Department says the idea is to get rid of weak, ailing trees during the summer to avoid mishaps in the monsoon.

Notably, the complaints of falling trees/branches in Bengaluru appear to be on the rise. Between April 2024 and January 2025, the number of cases attended by BBMP's canopy management team was 18,587.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, the team had attended to 7,472 cases. It went up to 12,107 between April 2021 and March 2022, followed by 17,948 canopy

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Timeless grace

The Articulate Trust for Arts is presenting Articulate Festival 06, an evening dedicated to the rich heritage of Indian classical dance. This prestigious event will showcase three remarkable solo performances by some of the country's most revered artists. **Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road; When: March 29, 6 pm**

02 Sound screening

To mark 20 years of excellence, Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing offers a free assessment camp for vertigo and tinnitus. With cutting-edge technology, audiologists work closely with ENT doctors to determine the cause and plan the best course of treatment, whether medical or non-medical. **Where: Samvaad Institute of Speech and Hearing, Hebbal; When: March 24 to 29**

03 Groove on

Windmills is presenting an electrifying musical experience as Trio Bobo teams up with the phenomenal Varijashree Venugopal for an unforgettable evening of jazz rock. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: March 28 and 29, 9.30 pm onwards**

04 Laughter dose

Gaurav Gupta, the renowned stand-up comedian, is going to be presenting his sharp wit and distinctive style in his new performance. He will be bringing a fresh perspective on life in Delhi, his cultural roots, and everyday social scenarios. **Where: Fan Park, 2nd Floor, Phoenix Mall of Asia; When: March 29, 5 pm and 8 pm**

05 Plot twist

The Natak Company is presenting a thrilling, star-studded adaptation of Macbeth, directed by actor Rajat Kapoor. With Rajat Kapoor's signature dark humor, this is Macbeth reimagined, with a scary, clownish twist. **Where: Jyoti Nivas College, Koramangala; When: March 30**

Missing bins leave dirty picture on Church Street

Dustbins removed due to damage and misuse, were overflowing and misused by vendors and residents, new bins and steps to clean paan stains are being implemented, says activist

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Church Street residents and social activists have expressed concern about the absence of dustbins and black spots along the footpath on Church Street.

Notably, Church Street made headlines when former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa inaugurated the Clean Air Street project in November 2020. It later made news for broken gratings, missing tiles, and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) authorities clearing 70 illegal stalls from the area.

Sanjay Kumar, President of Church Street and Rest House Welfare Association, expressed concern over the removal of dustbins. He also expressed that he does not support allowing street vendors, emphasizing his stance against their presence and the potential issues it may bring. "I oppose vendors occupying footpaths on Church Street. I also oppose organising cultural activities on Church Street because such activities will cause a lot of inconvenience to the residents on Church Street," he said.

"I do not know why dustbins are removed from Church Street. The dustbins were installed a few years ago as part of the development of Church Street. I want those who removed the dustbins to install new dustbins as early as possible," said Brahmananda Reddy, Vice President, Church Street and Rest House Welfare Association.

(Above Left) One of the spots where the dustbin has been removed from; (Right) Paan stains on one of the compound walls in Church Street; (Below Left) The dustbins were in good condition when the former CM BS Yediyurappa inspected Church Street, a few years ago

The residents said that the BBMP Road Infrastructure Department issued a letter to Unboxing BLR Foundation on July 23, 2024 to maintain Church Street on a daily basis. As of now, Let's Be The Change (LBTC), a non-profit organization in association with Unboxing BLR Foundation, BBMP, and Church Street Residents Association, is managing waste on Church Street. Niranjan Muralidhar of LBTC said that measures have been implemented to maintain Church Street's cleanliness, with arrangements made for regular sweeping both in the morning and evening. "Spitting on the footpath and compound walls has become a nuisance. Street vendors are responsible for the black spots on Church Street," he opined.

He mentioned that the dustbins on Church Street were in poor condition and stated that they were removed because most of them were damaged. "They were an eyesore as these bins were overflowing. Street vendors and some miscreants used to misuse those bins. We found some shopkeepers and residents dumping garbage in those bins which are meant for the floating population," he said. He added that measures are being taken to install new bins and remove paan stains on the footpath and compound wall.

> **"The dustbins were installed a few years ago as part of the development of Church Street**
> – Brahmananda Reddy, Vice President of Church Street and Rest House Welfare Association

BM Trippin' Tales

Bengalureans pack up for breezy vacations

As summer approaches, Bengalureans are making travel plans to escape the heat, with hill stations, beach destinations, and international trips topping the list. Travel agencies have reported a surge in bookings, and airlines are seeing increased demand. "We have seen a 30% increase in bookings for summer trips compared to last year. People are looking for cooler climates and scenic getaways," said Suresh Kumar, Manager at a Bengaluru-based travel agency.

For many families, the summer brings an opportunity to travel after pandemic-related restrictions in previous years. Sneha Rao, a software professional, shared, "We missed out on summer trips for the past two years due to work commitments. This year, we are planning a vacation to Ooty with family."

International destinations gain popularity

Bengalureans are also looking at international destinations, with places like Bali, Thailand, Switzerland, and Japan being popular choices. The easing of visa processes and affordable flight tickets have made international travel more accessible. "Countries like Vietnam, Indonesia, and Malaysia have become favorites due to budget-friendly packages. Europe is also in high demand, especially Switzerland and France," said Ananya Gupta, a travel consultant.

Adventure tourism on the rise

Younger travellers and adventure seekers are exploring activities such as trekking, wildlife safaris, and scuba diving. Places like Hampi, Rishikesh, Leh-Ladakh, and the Andaman Islands are seeing increased interest. "My friends and I are planning a road trip to Leh-Ladakh. We want to experience the thrill of riding through the mountains," said Rohan Sharma, an IT professional.

Surge in demand

With the increase in travel plans, airlines and hotels are witnessing

a sharp rise in demand. Budget airlines are offering discounts on early bookings, while hotels and resorts in tourist hotspots are nearing full occupancy. "Flights to Goa, Kerala, and Himachal Pradesh are filling up fast. We recommend early booking to avoid last-minute price hikes," said Manoj Reddy, a travel consultant. Many luxury resorts and homestays in hill stations have already reached 70-80% occupancy for April and May. "The demand for premium villas and cottages is high, especially among groups and families," said Vikram Shetty, a resort owner in Kodagu.

Precautions amidst the heat

While travel excitement is high, experts advise taking precautions against the scorching heat. Health professionals recommend staying hydrated, wearing light clothing, and avoiding direct sun exposure during peak hours. "Many travelers experience dehydration or heat strokes during summer trips. Carrying electrolyte-rich drinks, and wearing sunscreen can help avoid such issues," said Dr Priya Narayan, a Bengaluru-based physician. **— BMB**

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Exclusive Departures from Bengaluru

Tour code	Days		
F2	10	Singapore Thailand Malaysia	25, 30 Sep, 14, 24 Oct
F8	06	Singapore Malaysia	11 Aug, 9 Sep, 4 Oct
FT	06	Thailand	14 Apr, 22 May, 11 Aug
FV	10	Vietnam Cambodia	24 Sep, 22, 31 Oct
FH	07	Hong Kong Shenzhen Macao	17 Oct, 26 Dec
FY	07	Phuket Krabi Bangkok	27 Apr, 10 Aug, 22 Oct
JJ	07	Best of Japan	22 Sep
JA	10	Japan Alpine Route Ashikaga Flower Park	5 May
FI	08	Bali Jakarta	24 May, 25 Oct
NT	12	Amazing North East	21 Oct, 4 Nov
HG	08	Dalhousie Dharamshala Amritsar	06 May
HF	08	Shimla Manali	1, 18 May, 13 Jun
HE	12	All of Himachal	13, Apr, 15 May
SN	07	Andaman Swaraj Dweep & Shaheed Dweep	13 Apr, 04 May
KF	07	Kashmir Vaishnodevi	03 May
OC	13	Uttaranchal Chardham Yatra	15, 25 May, 06 Jun
D1	07	Dubai Abu Dhabi	29 Sep, 16 Oct
D2	05	Dubai With Abu Dhabi	25 Oct, 24 Dec

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Producers want to stop IPL screening at cinema halls

With the Indian Premier League (IPL) season underway, multiplex and cinema owners in Bengaluru are allegedly screening live matches without necessary approvals. This has sparked outrage among Kannada film producers, who fear significant financial losses due to dwindling audiences for their upcoming releases.

The Karnataka Film Producers' Association has complaint with the Bengaluru Police Commissioner, urging strict action against theatres airing IPL matches. According to the complaint, several multiplexes are violating state and central regulations by screening these matches, creating an unfair disadvantage for local filmmakers.

Association President Umesh Banakar stated that the illegal telecast of IPL matches in cinemas is pushing Kannada films into crisis. "Many Kannada films are lined up for release, and this unauthorised screening is hurting our business. If theatres prioritise cricket over films, it will lead to severe losses for the Kannada film industry."

Kannada producers demand action as cinemas illegally screen IPL, hurting local film industry

Beyond financial concerns, there is growing worry over betting activities linked to IPL matches. Authorities have taken action against those involved in cricket betting across Karnataka. Several individuals have suffered financial losses through online betting.

The Kannada Film Producers' Association has urged police to ensure that theatres comply with regulations and refrain from screening IPL matches. They have also appealed to authorities to issue strict directives to multiplex owners, emphasising that violating these rules could lead to legal consequences. — BMB

Yet another hurdle for BBMP elections

Cascading effect of governor stalling government plan to restructure civic body, divide it into multiple corporations

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The long-pending Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) elections face further delays as Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot has returned the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill, 2025, to the state government for clarifications. Despite strong opposition from various parties, the bill was passed in both houses of the state legislature and sent for the Governor's approval. However, with his decision to seek clarifications, the state government's plan to divide BBMP into seven municipal corporations has hit a major roadblock, prolonging the uncertainty over BBMP elections.

The tenure of elected BBMP corporators ended on September 10, 2020, leaving the civic body under bureaucratic rule—an unusual administrative precedent. Successive governments have repeatedly deferred elections, citing various reasons, with tacit support from legislators across BJP, Congress, and JD(S). Previously, BBMP functioned under the Karnataka Municipal Corporations Act. However, during BS Yediyurappa's tenure as Chief Minister, a separate BBMP Act was enacted, increasing the number of wards from 198 to 243—triggering further delays in holding elections.

"When the Congress government came to power in 2023, pressure mounted to conduct the elections. In response, the government reduced the number of wards from 243 to 225 through a fresh notification. A BBMP Reform Committee was then reconstituted, proposing a new governance model, including the division of BBMP into multiple smaller municipal bodies. This proposal was incorporated into the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill.

Governance reform hits roadblock as BBMP restructuring plan faces fresh hurdles

"The Governor's decision to return the bill has created another hurdle in an already delayed election process
– Nanda Kumar, a civic activist

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar introduced the bill in the Legislative Assembly in July 2024, but it faced strong opposition from rival parties. Consequently, a 14-member joint legislative committee was formed to review it. Eventually, a modified version of the bill was passed in both Houses, but the Governor has now sent it back," said Nanda Kumar, a civic activist.

According to sources, the election delay is being justified through ward reorganisation, reservation changes, and recurring proposals for administrative restructuring. In 2006, the then-government merged 110 villages, seven town municipalities, and one city municipality with Bengaluru to form the BBMP, leading to a three-and-a-half-year delay in elections. Except for the 2001 elections, every BBMP election has faced legal and administrative hurdles, repeatedly postponing the formation of a local government.

Paneer under the scanner

After idli, paneer is now under scrutiny over safety concerns. The use of chemicals to make paneer softer has raised alarms, with experts warning of potential links to cancer, kidney disease, and heart-related ailments. The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which has been cracking down on adulteration, has now issued a warning to paneer consumers.

On March 17, officials collected 163 samples of paneer from various locations in the city for testing. Of the 17 reports received so far, four samples were found to be safe, while two contained harmful substances, sources revealed. It was also found that some manufacturers use lower amounts of calcium and protein while adding chemicals to soften paneer, which could pose a serious health risk, according to the FSSAI report.

Health risks linked to adulterated paneer

Experts warn that consuming chemically adulterated paneer can lead to severe health issues, including heart disease, high cholesterol, kidney problems, and even cancer. The food safety department is conducting awareness drives across various locations to educate the public on food adulteration. Officials urge students and the general public to stay vigilant about food quality. — BMB

Candlelight march to protest graft in judiciary

The Advocates' Association, Bengaluru, in a recent Special General Body Meeting, decided to hold a candlelight vigil across Karnataka and at the High Court entrance to symbolise the need to "dispel darkness and bring light to our judiciary."

The demonstration aims to highlight judicial corruption, particularly in the Karnataka High Court Registry's posting procedures, and to protest the vigilance department's inefficacy in tackling corruption in trial courts and removing corrupt trial judges. The meeting addressed the reported cash seizure at Justice Yashwant Varma's Delhi residence, emphasising judicial accountability and rising corruption concerns in both higher and trial courts. The association stated that the Delhi incident has undermined public trust, damaging credibility and weakening the legal framework.

A resolution was passed demanding that High Court judges facing corruption allegations be transferred. The association also sought annual public declarations of assets by judges and their families. Concerns were raised over Justice K. Natarajan's numerous part-heard cases, with a call for their immediate release and a court boycott threat if unaddressed. They also urged reforms in judicial appointments to tackle nepotism. — BMB

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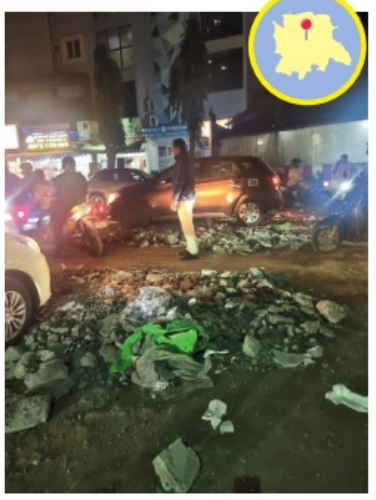
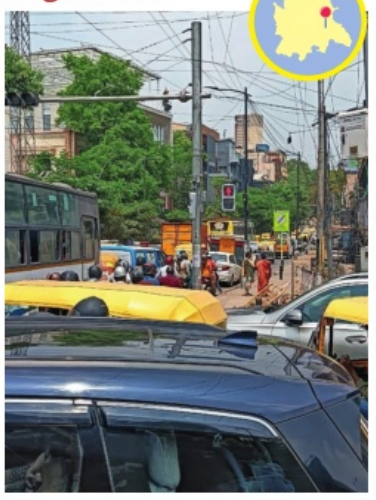
Traffic chaos
Hosa Road



Unattended debris on Hosa Road near Central Jail is causing major congestion, leaving vehicles stranded.

Road blocked
Brigade Road



Frequent signal failures at the Brigade Road–Residency Road junction are making traffic a constant nightmare, day and night.

Garbage mess
Kauser Nagar

Garbage has been piling up for days near Golden Arch Apartment on Kauser Nagar Main Road, RT Nagar, with no action taken.

Dog dies after surgery: Was vaccine a factor?

Street dog death sparks concerns over BBMP sterilisation; vets say post-surgery deaths are rare and unlikely to be caused by vaccine

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The recent death of a street dog on Wednesday in Kaggadasapura after an Animal Birth Control (ABC) surgery, followed by a 5-in-1 vaccination, has raised concerns about the safety of the mass vaccination drive carried out by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). However, BBMP clarifies that the procedure is safe, while veterinarians assert that post-surgery deaths due to the vaccination are extremely uncommon.

According to the reporter, BBMP picked up the dog a few days ago for sterilisation and vaccination. After the procedure, the animal was dropped back to its original location.

However, a day later, the dog died due to canine distemper.

City-based animal welfare workers say administering a combined vaccine (5 in 1, along with an anti-rabies vaccine) immediately after ABC might be the reason for death.

"The vaccine could have triggered a latent virus in the system. The combined vaccine should not be administered immediately after the surgery, as the animal is already weak from the surgery. There is no way to find out if other animals are suffering due to the BBMP's method," said a city-based animal welfare worker.

Notably, BBMP's Animal Husbandry Department started the drive to vaccinate street dogs with the 5-in-1 vaccine along with the Anti-Rabies vaccine on February 17. According to the officials, more than 15,000 dogs within the BBMP limit have been vaccinated with the combined vaccine.

"We have administered the vaccine to more than 15,000 street dogs across all 8 zones. The street dog population has been divided into 24 packs, and so many teams are vaccinating the animals either at ABC centers post-surgery or in the field to ensure maximum coverage. The process to administer the combined vaccine after ABC surgery is safe, and we have gone ahead with mass drive only after conducting it on a pilot basis," said a senior official from the Animal Husbandry department.

The 5-in-1 Canine Core Combined Vaccine targets canine distemper, canine hepatitis, canine parvovirus, canine parainfluenza, and canine leptospirosis.

The Department has procured 36,000 5-in-1 vaccines and has a target of vaccinating 1.84 lakh dogs under this initiative at a total cost of Rs 4.9 crore.

Veterinarians approve BBMP's process

However, veterinarians say that the process of catch, neuter, and vaccinate, being followed by BBMP, is standard practice, a pragmatic approach in case of community animals.

According to Dr S Yathiraj, former dean of Bengaluru Veterinary College in Hebbal, even if administered after ABC surgery, the chances of side effects of vaccines are low.

"Side effects can occur after any kind of vaccine, irrespective of the brand. However, most common reactions can include increased heart rate, salivation, and eye discharge in one out of ten thousand animals vaccinated with the combined vaccine that BBMP is using. However, death is extremely rare. In the given case, death due to a surgery-related complication is more probable. If it was due to the vaccine, the animal would have exhibited signs within five to ten minutes," said Yathiraj.

Ranya Rao's bail plea denied again

A Sessions Court in Bengaluru on Thursday rejected the bail application of Kannada actress Ranya Rao in connection with the gold smuggling case.

Her bail petition is rejected for the third time. Earlier, the Special Court for Economic Offences and the Magistrate Court had rejected her bail petition.

Rao, the stepdaughter of senior police officer Ramchandra Rao, was arrested on March 3 for allegedly smuggling 14.2 kilograms of gold, valued at over Rs 12.56 crore.

The prosecution has argued in court that the actress has admitted to using hawala channels to buy the bullion.

The authorities have issued a notice to initiate a judicial inquiry against Ranya Rao, as this will reveal other financial irregularities.

Tarun Raju, a close associate of the actress, is the second accused in the case and is also awaiting the court's decision on his bail application.

Meanwhile, Sahil Sakariya Jain, a gold merchant, was arrested on Wednesday for his alleged involvement in disposing of the smuggled gold linked to Ranya Rao. Jain has been sent to police custody for four days for further investigation.

Earlier, Counsel Madhu Rao, appearing for the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at the Special Economic Offences Court, said that Tarun and Ranya have travelled together to Dubai about 26 times.

Tarun travelled from Dubai to Hyderabad on a ticket booked by Ranya Rao. Additionally, Tarun gave gold to Ranya Rao in Dubai. Senior police officer Ramchandra Rao has also been questioned in the gold smuggling case. —IANS

Advertorial Promotional Feature

BM Food & Night Life

Ugadi Special

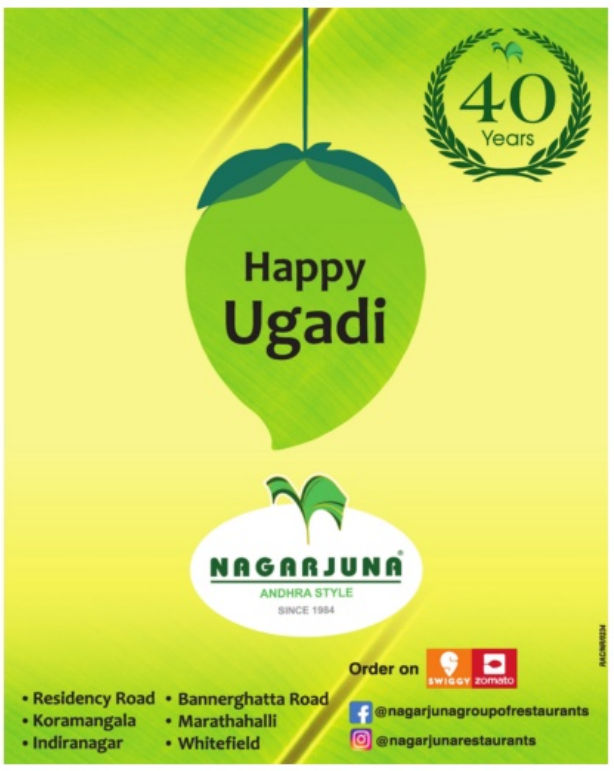
From pachadi to obbattu: Many tastes of Ugadi

Ugadi, or the new year in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, marks everything new and festive. And like all festivals, the feast served during the lunch to celebrate the new year takes centre stage. Panjury V Shankar of Karnatic shares, "Ugadi commemorates the start of a new Hindu calendar year and occurs between March and April in the Gregorian calendar. Ugadi is a time for fresh beginnings, with the longer and brighter days inspiring optimism. The Ugadi feast comprises the traditional Ugadi Pachadi. And there is the mavinakai chitranna, buttermilk, obbattu and a lot more sweets and savouries that go on the plate."

Understanding the Ugadi feast

The feast includes multiple courses and is served with accompanying drinks that include buttermilk, Ugadi pachadi and paanaka, varying from tastes and practices in different homes. The entree includes kosambari or traditional salad, comprising vegetables and lentils. There is also an assortment of papad and masala vade, along with bevu and bella, which are neem and jaggery, to symbolise the bittersweet experiences the year brings. The first course comprises puri or akki rotti with traditional sagu, along with dry palya, made with seasonal vegetables. The second course has festive specials like puliyogare or pulihora and mango chitranna. The third course comprises rasam or sambar with rice, followed by curd rice.

For dessert, it's the traditional obbattu and payasa. —TOI



Yatnal expulsion exposes rumblings in state BJP

BJP must navigate challenges in retaining influence in North K'taka, while leader's next move remains uncertain, impacting political dynamics, say political pundits

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The expulsion of veteran Bharatiya Janata Party leader Basanagouda Patil Yatnal from the saffron party has highlighted the internal conflict within the party. Though the party high command wanted to give a stern warning that it will no longer tolerate dissidence, only time will tell as to how this will shape the party's future prospects.

Yatnal's expulsion marks a significant moment in BJP's Karnataka politics. Known for his outspoken nature, he had repeatedly targeted former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa and his son Vijayendra. He had also conducted meetings with senior leaders like Ramesh Jarkiholi, Aravind Limbavali, Kumar Bangarappa, and GM Siddeshwar, hinting at a possible alternative power bloc within the party. His open criticisms, whether on corruption, nepotism, or internal party politics, often embarrassed BJP leadership, providing ammunition to opposition parties. His remarks in the Assembly had also put the party in difficult positions, prompting disciplinary warnings from the high command.

Political pundits said that as BJP looks to consolidate its ranks ahead of the upcoming local body elections, the expulsion of a strong leader like Yatnal may have ripple effects, particularly in North Karnataka. While Yatnal vows to continue his fight, his next political move remains a topic of speculation.

BJP has to tread a careful path as it looks to consolidate its ranks ahead of the upcoming local body elections

It was his repeated controversial statements that led to him being expelled from the party for the second time after 2009

Notably, Yatnal had played a crucial role in expanding BJP's influence in North Karnataka during the 1990s, working alongside BS Yediyurappa and Ananth Kumar. As a prominent leader in the region, he initially enjoyed strong backing. However, his repeated defiance and controversial statements led to his first expulsion from the party in 2009. Over a decade later, history has repeated itself with his second ousting.

Rise in national politics

Yatnal first became a Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) in 1994, and quickly gained prominence for his fiery speeches. His aggressive political style earned him a place in the national arena, where he won the Lok Sabha elections in 1999 and 2004. He served as the Minister of State for Railways in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government. His repeated criticism of BS Yediyurappa and Shobha Karandlaje led to his first expulsion from the BJP in 2009. Post-expulsion, Yatnal joined the Janata Dal (Secular) in 2012, contesting the 2013 assembly elections from Vijayapura City. However, he failed to make a political comeback. His fallout with JD(S) leadership, including HD Kumaraswamy and HD Deve Gowda, further isolated him.

Yatnal re-entered BJP in 2014, leveraging Narendra Modi's rise as the party's prime ministerial candidate. He unsuccessfully sought a party ticket for the 2015 Legislative Council elections from the Vijayapura-Bagalkot local authorities' constituency. Frustrated, he contested as an independent candidate and won. However, internal differences led him to leave the party again in 2016.

Determined to return to state politics, Yatnal re-joined BJP in 2017 through central leadership intervention. He secured a ticket for the 2018 Karnataka Assembly elections from Vijayapura and won.

Political pundits note that with his departure, BJP must now navigate the challenges of retaining its influence in North Karnataka, where Yatnal has a dedicated support base. Whether he charts an independent path, joins another party, or attempts yet another comeback remains to be seen.

Govt school gets new classroom, library

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All these years, students and teachers of Government Higher Primary School at Alappanahalli near Hoskote struggled whenever a cluster meeting was held for teachers from other government schools. With only three classrooms available, they had to vacate one to accommodate the meeting.

Now, thanks to the M1 Foundation, the students no longer have to give up their classroom space. The foundation has facilitated the construction of an additional classroom and a library, easing the burden on students and teachers alike.

MLA Sharath Bachegowda, who inaugurated the new facilities, for its commitment to education and rural development.

"It is heartening to see private organisations stepping forward to support government schools. If such collective efforts continue, we can transform government schools across the district and provide better educational opportunities for students," the MLA said.

By adopting the Government Higher Primary School, the foundation has not only enhanced its infrastructure but also elevated the school's overall standards. Beyond this initiative, the foundation has contributed high-mast lights in several locations across the taluk, further improving public infrastructure.

Inauguration function of the new classroom at Govt Higher Primary school

The inaugural event saw the presence of M1 Foundation's founder and CEO, Prasad Musunoori, along with director Y Srinivas Rao, students, local residents, and community leaders.

"We only had four rooms earlier. At the time, cluster meetings disrupted classes, but now students can study undisturbed, and our 2,000 books have a dedicated library space

–Head Master Lokesh DS

Lokesh DS, Headmaster of the school, told BM that the institution originally had only four rooms. "One room was used as an office-cum-warehouse, another for classes 1st to 3rd, the third for 4th and 5th grades, and the last for 6th and 7th grades," he explained.

Expressing his gratitude to the M1 Foundation, he added, "With the construction of two additional rooms—one for cluster meetings and another for a library—we now have dedicated space for our 2,000 books, which were previously kept in a classroom."

The school currently has 65 students, who will now benefit from a more spacious.

CID to probe honey trap case

The Karnataka government on Thursday handed over the honey trap case to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), which began its probe immediately.

Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Mohan ordered the CID investigation based on a request from Minister for Cooperation KN Rajanna. On March 20, Rajanna told the state Assembly that he had fallen victim to a honey trap and claimed that over 48 politicians across Karnataka and the country had faced similar situations.

He later submitted a three-page report to Home Minister G Parameshwara, who forwarded it to the DGP for further investigation. Rajanna, a close associate of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, has also been vocal about the allocation of key political posts to DCM DK Shivakumar. –BMB

Nandana Palace wins top award

Nandhana Palace won the Best Andhra Cuisine Award at the Bangalore Hotel Association Food Awards 2025. Nandhana Palace CMD Dr R Ravichandar, actor Vijaya Raghavendra, FKCCI President Balakrishna, Professor Radhakrishna, Hotel Association Secretary Veerendra Kamat, and Treasurer Sudhakar Shetty attended the award ceremony held at Palace Grounds.

Govt ready for SC reservation

The much-awaited interim report on internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) in government jobs by the Justice (Retired) HN Nagamohan Das panel was submitted at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Retired Justice Das handed over the report, titled Honourable Justice HN Nagamohan Das Single Member Bench: Classification of Scheduled Caste Internal Reservation, to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in the presence of Food Minister KH Muniyappa, Social Justice Minister HC Mahadevappa, and other dignitaries.

The Karnataka government has reiterated its commitment to implementing internal reservation for SCs. At a press conference following a high-level meeting, Home Minister G Parameshwara said the Congress had promised this move in its election manifesto. –BMB

More cameras, more tigers

The Wildlife Technical Cell of the Karnataka Forest Department (KFD) has estimated that Karnataka is home to 393 tigers across its five tiger reserves.

The population survey, conducted between November 2023 and February 2024, used 2,160 camera traps placed across Nagarahole, Bandipur, Bhadra, Biligiri Ranganathaswamy Temple (BRT), and Kali (Dandeli-Anshi) reserves. The annual report also tracks tiger prey and other mammals in these forests. The number of camera traps has increased significantly over the past decade, from 578 in 2014 to 2,160 in 2024, contributing to a rise in estimated tiger numbers from 261 to 393 to identify individual tigers by their unique stripe patterns. –BMB

April squeeze: Costlier milk, power, and tolls

From April 1, Karnataka residents will face higher expenses as KERC raises fixed power charges by ₹25, milk prices go up by ₹4 per litre, and toll rates increase by 3-5%

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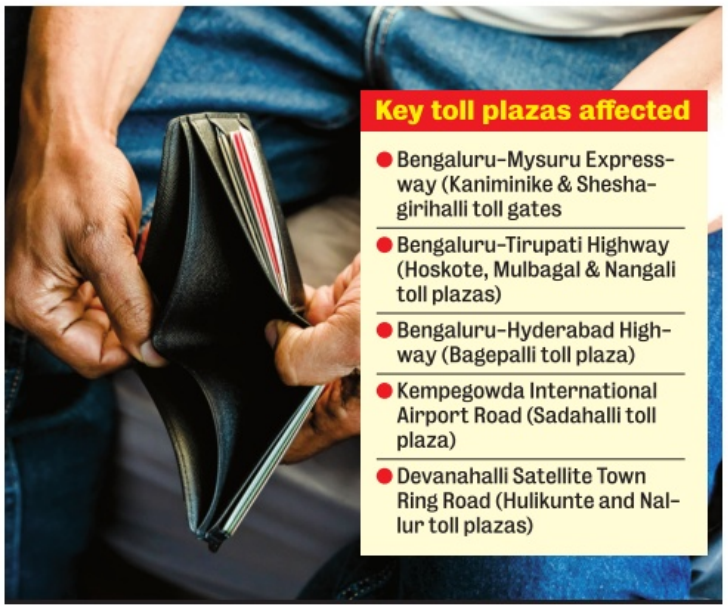
Electricity consumers in Karnataka will face higher fixed charges on their monthly bills as the Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC) has approved a ₹25 hike, increasing the per-connection charge from ₹120 to ₹145, effective April 1, 2025. While this adds to household expenses, the commission has marginally reduced energy tariffs by 10 paise per unit across all categories, including domestic, commercial, industrial, educational institutions, and hospitals. For the first time, KERC has adopted a Multi-Year Tariff (MYT) system, ensuring tariff stability for the next three financial years. The energy tariff, previously at ₹5.90 per unit in 2024, will drop to ₹5.80 per unit for 2025-27 and further to ₹5.75 per unit in 2027-28. This minor reduction is estimated to bring ₹30 to ₹50 in monthly savings for average households.



Key toll plazas affected

- Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway (Kaniminike & Sheshagirihalli toll gates
- Bengaluru-Tirupati Highway (Hoskote, Mulbagal & Nangali toll plazas)
- Bengaluru-Hyderabad Highway (Bagepalli toll plaza)
- Kempegowda International Airport Road (Sadahalli toll plaza)
- Devanahalli Satellite Town Ring Road (Hulikunte and Nallur toll plazas)

Milk prices to go up

Milk prices in Karnataka are set to rise by ₹4 per litre from April 1. Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna announced the increase on Thursday, stating that the decision was made in response to demands from milk federations and farmers. He said, "The milk federation had requested a ₹5 hike per litre, and after discussions, the government approved a ₹4 increase, which will be entirely passed on to farmers." This revision comes amid recent hikes in bus and metro fares, along with increased power tariffs.

Consequently, from April 1, the cost of toned milk (blue pack) has increased from ₹42 to ₹46 per liter, while homogenised toned milk has gone up from ₹43 to ₹47. Cow milk (green pack) now costs ₹50 per litre, up from ₹46, and Shubham special milk (orange pack) has risen from ₹48 to ₹52 per litre. Additionally, curd prices have been revised from 50 to 54 per kg. In 2024, the KMF hiked the milk price by Rs 2 per packet and increased the quantity per packet by 50ml. KMF has been maintaining that the price increase in 2024 was not a hike, as the quantity of milk supplied had also increased.

Reacting to this, Anita Rao, a homemaker, said, "The rise in milk prices will significantly impact our household budget. We use milk daily for tea, coffee, and cooking, and even a small hike adds up over time. With the cost of other essentials also increasing, this will be an additional financial strain for middle-class families."

Toll charges to increase

Amid rising costs of essential goods and services, residents of Karnataka are set to face another financial burden as toll charges across the state will increase by 3% to 5% from April 1. The revised toll rates will directly impact the public, adding to their commuting expenses.

The toll fee hike is based on annual inflation and price index adjustments. It will be implemented at 66 toll plazas across the state, with the increase varying depending on the duration of the toll contract. Officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) have confirmed that the additional charges will be passed on to the commuters.

The Union government is expected to announce a comprehensive new toll policy soon, which may provide certain concessions to motorists. However, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, had earlier assured that the new policy would bring some relief to commuters, but it has not been enforced yet. As a result, the existing 2008 toll regulations remain in effect, according to the Karnataka State Travel Operators Association. "As per the National Highway Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008, toll charges are revised based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). This is a standard increase, and vehicle owners will have to bear the additional cost, which will ultimately be passed on to passengers," said Radhakrishna Holla, President of the Karnataka State Travel Operators Association.

Court halts land allotment

The Karnataka High Court has halted the state administration's plan to allocate municipal property in Hubballi at a substantially discounted rate for establishing a Congress party office. The decision, endorsed by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's cabinet, faced opposition and legal scrutiny.

The Karnataka Cabinet, in February, sanctioned the assignment of 2,988.29 sq m of land near Keshwapur Circle in Hubballi-Dharwad to the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) for constructing a district office. The property, assessed at Rs 5.67 crore according to guidance value, was granted for Rs 28 lakh, approximately 5 per cent of its market value. The location presently contains substantial water storage facilities, supplying drinking water to Hubballi city and remains restricted to public access.

BJP representatives in the Hubballi-Dharwad Municipal Corporation strongly contested the allocation, contending that assigning land designated for public utilities to a political organisation was unsuitable. Corporation members Santosh Chavhan and Beerappa sought legal intervention, resulting in the High Court's stay order.

Law Minister HK Patil defended the decision, stating: "There are conventions in Karnataka where concessions are given. Based on that, we have allotted land for various parties in the past. This is not new."

-BMB

HC upholds ED summons

The Karnataka High Court has emphasised that individuals can be summoned under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) regardless of their accused status in the scheduled offence, if it remains pending.

Justices V Kameshwar Rao and S Rachaiah delivered this ruling whilst dismissing an appeal by RM Manjunath Gowda, former Chairman of Shivamogga DCC Bank, who challenged a single judge order upholding summons issued by the Enforcement Directorate.

The bench stated, "There is no dispute that there is a predicate offence against the other accused and in furtherance of that, the authorities are justified in summoning any person whose attendance is necessary for investigation purposes."

The prosecution's case involved an FIR registered at Doddapete Police Station, Shivamogga, with a charge sheet dated October 18, 2014, citing offences under Sections 409, 120B, 201 read with Section 37 of the IPC. Initially, the appellant was not named as an accused. A subsequent investigation under Section 173(8) of the CrPC led to charges against the appellant under Sections 409 and 202 read with Section 36 of the IPC. Another case, dated May 29, 2014, was registered for offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, with a charge sheet dated March 20, 2018. The ED then issued a summons under Section 50 of the PMLA Act.

-BMB

CRIME FILES

Yet another body in the suitcase

A man allegedly murdered his wife, dismembered her body, and stuffed it into a suitcase in Doddakammanahalli under Hulimavu police station limits. The crime came to light when neighbours noticed a foul smell and alerted the police.

The accused, identified as Rakesh, and his wife, Gauri, originally from Maharashtra, had been living in Bengaluru for the past three years. It is suspected that the murder took place three days ago at their residence near Walmart Apartments. After committing the crime, Rakesh reportedly called his wife's parents in Maharashtra to inform them about the incident before going into hiding.

Based on information provided by Maharashtra Police, the Hulimavu Police visited the crime scene and launched an investigation. Senior officials, including DCP Sara Fatima, inspected the site. The police have registered a case.

Two killed in bus accident

A BMTC electric bus collided with a two-wheeler near the ISRO signal on Old Airport Road late Tuesday night, leaving two individuals from West Bengal dead.

The victims have been identified as Tapadali (31), a Rapido bike rider, and Aditya Bose (32), an employee of a private firm. According to police sources, the incident occurred around 10:33 pm when the two-wheeler attempted to overtake the bus. In the process, it collided with an oncoming car, causing the riders to lose control and fall under the rear wheels of the bus. Both were crushed and died on the spot.

After the accident, the driver and operator of the Tata Mobility Ltd. (TML) electric bus fled the scene but were later arrested by JB Nagar police, who have launched an investigation. BMTC, Accident Department, expressed condolences to the victims' families. -BMB

Cops on trail of reel gun

The weapon allegedly used by former Bigg Boss contestants Vinay Gowda and Rajat in a controversial social media reel remains untraceable, according to police.

Both individuals are currently in the custody of Basaveshwar Nagar Police, who are continuing their investigation into the matter. A few days ago, the duo posted a reel on social media featuring what appeared to be a firearm, prompting a complaint to be filed against them at the Basaveshwara Nagar Police Station.

Following the complaint, the police issued a notice summoning them for questioning. However, during interrogation, they reportedly attempted to mislead investigators by handing over a fiber replica instead of the actual weapon used in the video.

According to police statements, both individuals admitted to using a handgun while shooting the reel.

Fake IAS dupes women

A case has been registered against a bodybuilder, Jeevan Kumar, for allegedly duping multiple women by posing as an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer. He is accused of luring women on matrimonial websites under the pretext of marriage and subsequently extorting money from them. According to the police, Jeevan Kumar created a fake profile on a matrimonial website, where he presented himself as a high-ranking IAS officer. After gaining the trust of women, he would emotionally manipulate them, claiming that his mother was suffering from cancer and needed financial assistance for treatment. In one such case, he took Rs 3 lakh from a woman in multiple installments and later demanded an additional Rs 5 lakh. When the woman hesitated, he allegedly threatened to release her private photos on social media. He also warned her of dire consequences if she approached the police.

Citizens worry about drier days ahead

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

charges range between Rs 1,200- Rs1,500 for water delivery. Tankers operators on their part justified the price hike, claiming, "We transport water from 40-50 km away. If the source was nearby, we would charge less."

Lack of enforcement

Last year, over 170 tankers were officially registered under the district administration's pricing policy. The BBMP had even published a list of these tankers and mandated stickers for identification. A special monitoring team comprising BBMP and water board officials was deployed to enforce price regulation. However, this year, authorities appear to be inactive in controlling overpricing. Despite a fixed pricing structure still being in place, no action has been taken against private operators flouting the rules.

Fixed pricing

Last summer, private tankers charged over Rs 3,000 per load, prompting resident complaints and forcing the district administration to regulate prices— Rs 600 for 6,000 litre, Rs 700 for 8,000 litre, and Rs 1,000 for 12,000 litre within 5 km, with slightly higher rates of Rs 750, Rs 850, and Rs 1,200 for distances up to 10 km. However, despite these regulations, many private tankers continue to overcharge.

BWSSB to supply water

A BWSSB official said, "To counter the crisis, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has stepped in, offering 6,000 litre of Cauvery water for Rs 540, including tanker rental. Residents can visit their respective service stations, specify their address and required quantity, make the payment, and receive a receipt. The BWSSB will then dispatch a tanker from its Ground Level Reservoir (GLR) without delay. An online booking system for tanker water supply is in progress."

Private tankers are last resort

Bengaluru has over 4 lakh private borewells, of which nearly 40% dry up or experience reduced water levels during summer. Many residents, heavily dependent on groundwater, are left with no option but to buy from private tankers. Tanker operators are taking advantage of this situation by charging excessive rates. Although the BWSSB has hired 200 tankers to supply Cauvery water at regulated prices, many citizens continue to rely on private operators as they are unaware of the official alternative.

Number of complaints on falling tree/branches rise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

management cases between April 2023 and March 2024.

BBMP has also increased the number of canopy management teams over the last few years. BBMP had 15 canopy management teams (each with 8 members) in 2020, which was expanded to 28 teams at a total cost of Rs 11.7 crore in 2023, followed by 30 teams currently.

Valid worry

However, city-based tree activists say this step would lead to the BBMP being flooded with calls, even of trees that are either healthy or can be revived with some treatment.

"Most of the cases of branches falling and trees toppling are due to weak root systems of the avenue trees. The majority of the avenue trees in the city have critical root zones concreted up to their trunk. Deconcretising, coupled with basic treatment, will do the trick. Infected and weak trees should be nurtured and treated to bring them back to health, instead of cutting them on public complaints," said a city-based tree activist.

Experts say, considering the large number of illegal tree felling activities, the need of the hour is a list of officials to be contacted in case of tree felling.

"BBMP should publish a list of officials to be contacted when someone is cutting a tree without permission. There should be contact numbers of the officials in every area so citizens can reach out in case of such illegal activities. Many times, forest department officials do not respond to calls in emergencies," said Dattatreya Devare, one of the volunteers and a trustee of Bangalore Environment Trust.

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I, BHUMICA KHANDELWAL (Old Name), D/o. ASHOK KHANDELWAL Residing at No. 338, No. 37, D Block, Nyanapanahalli Village, Begur Hobli Bengaluru -560076. Have changed my name to BHUMIKA KHANDELWAL (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 27/3/2025 Before Notary G.R.Rajanna Bangalore.

I, Arshad Hussain M Mirdhe R/O No 36, 1st Main, 3rd cross, Judicial Layout, Sanjaynagar, Blr-94 changed my name from Meer Arshad Hussain Mirdhe Mir Abdul Majid to Arshad Hussain M Mirdhe for all future purposes. (M full form is Majid).

I, SYED SANA ULLA R/at No.32, 5th Cross, 6th Main Road, Shamanna Garden, Bangalore- 560026 have changed my Minor Child Name from ZAIBA to ZAIBA TAJ vide affidavit dated: 15/03/2025 Before Notary M.K. Devaki Bangalore.

I, Mohammed Shabeer Khan R/o ward.11, Tanjavoor Mohalla, Kunigal, Tumakur 572130 have changed my name to Mohammed Shabeer. I shall be declare for all purpose

I, Zakir Hussain Chand S/o Chand Pasha R/o No.2/3, 2nd floor, Ranoji Rao road,Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560004 have changed my name to Zakir Hussian Affidavit Dt.27/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Prashanthan Kochuthundiyil Domodaran, R/o #201, Anand Somu Prestine Apts Anjanapura JP Nagar 9th Block Extn B'luru-560062 have changed my Minor Daughter's Name from Aaryananda Kochyhundiyil Prashanthan to Aaryananda Kochuthundiyil Prashanthan for all Purposes.

I, Qaidjohar Amirbhai Unjhawala Aka Pindwarawala R/o Flat.401, 5th floor, Joon Manzil, Bohara layout, Gottigere, Bengaluru 560083 have changed my name to Qaid Joher Jabir Bhai Pindwarawala Affidavit Dt.27/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, SUHASINI A, C/o Anilkumar R Kulkarni, R/at No. 5/4, 2nd Floor, 1st Main road, Laljinagar, Lakkasandra Extension, Bengaluru-560030 have changed my name to SUHASINI, vide affidavit dt: 25.03.2025 Notary B.M Chandrashekar, Bangalore

I, Noorain Rahima Nasrullakhan W/o Zakir Hussian R/o No.2/3, 2nd floor, Ranoji Rao road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560004 have changed my name to Noorain Rahima Affidavit Dt.27/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Vaishali Jitendra Thakkar W/o Vaibhav Anant, residing at F02, Vaishnavi Orchids, 12th main, Kasavanahalli, Bengaluru 560035, have changed my name to Vaishali Thakkar Affidavit Dt.27/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I Mr. Prabhu R residing at No U 134, 6th Cross, Swathantra Nagar, Bangalore 560021. I have named my daughter as Aila P, we belongs to SC caste (AD), I solemly affirm that myself or my family had not converted to any other religion.

I, Saurav S/O Sheo Narayan Seth R/O Flat E – 114, Monarch Serenity, Thanisandra Main Road Bangalore, Bangalore North, Dr. Shivaram Karanth Nagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560077, have changed my name to Saurav Seth.

I, Gethin Mohan George R/o Laa Moonstone, Block 2, 2nd Floor, Flat No.205, Electronic City, Phase 1, Bengaluru - 560100 have changed my minor daughter's name from Jia Gethin to Jia Krishna Gethin.

I Dharmesh Jitendra Gohil S/O, Jitendra Sunderji Gohil R/o F-16124, Wing-16, Sobha Royal Pavillion, Hadosiddapura, Bengaluru - 560035 have changed my name to Dharmesh Gohil.

LOST & FOUND

Document Lost

I, Pallavi .B.N W/o B.K.Nagaraju residing at No.21, near Basavanna temple, B.M.Main road, Bidadi, Ramanagar taluk and district-562109, stating that, i have lost the Original register papers of Yogeshwara Layout, khata No.1488/832/171. The two letters have been lost, including the original paper purchased by K.P.Balakrishna from C.P.Yogeshwar and the original paper purchased by Mrs. Gangamma W/o Sri Ramaiah from Siddappa alias Madappa S/o Late Kalappa. has been lost at near Bidadi BMTC bus stop on 25.03.2025. I have filed a complaint (L.R.No.1537395/2025) to Bidadi Police on 25.03.2025. if any one finds the said document, please contact the above said address or mobile number: 9980016104.

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 # Depardieu case Prosecutor calls for 18-month suspended sentence for Gérard Depardieu in sexual assault case

Really speaking

Sara Ali Khan reveals honest reaction to colleague Alia's National Award win

Bollywood actress Alia Bhatt reached a significant milestone in 2023 by winning the National Award for Best Actress for her role in 'Gangubai Kathiawadi', directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali. Now, actress Sara Ali Khan has shared her admiration for the Jigra actress and admitted to feeling envious of her success.

During an interview with NDTV, Sara shared her honest reaction to Alia Bhatt's National Award win. "When Alia got the National Award, I was like, 'God, she got it, she has a kid as well, her life is set.' But I don't know what she went through to get that. I, as an actor, dehumanised her. You don't know—she must have had challenges and disappointments too, to reach where she is. But I didn't realise what went into it. There are two sides to every coin," she added.

Sara further shared that when people become envious of others, there is a tendency to ignore the struggles behind their success. She pointed out that people often see only the achievements but overlook the hardships.

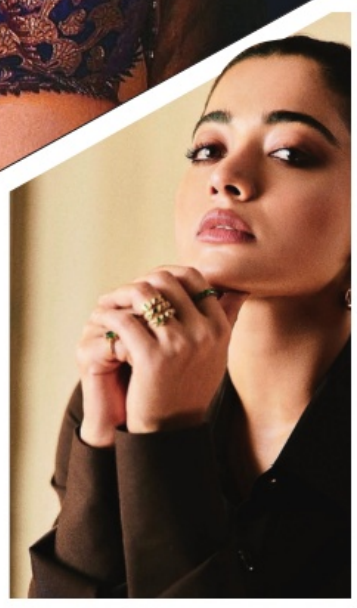
She described envy as a form of 'blindness'.

Sara made her Bollywood debut with 'Kedarnath' alongside the late Sushant Singh Rajput. She was last seen in Skyforce with Veer Pahariya and Akshay Kumar.

Alia was last seen in Vasan Bala's 'Jigra' alongside Vedang Raina. However, the film failed to impress at the box office.

She is now busy shooting for Sanjay Leela Bhansali's 'Love & War', alongside Ranbir Kapoor and Vicky Kaushal. **—ETimes**

Rashmika's favourites



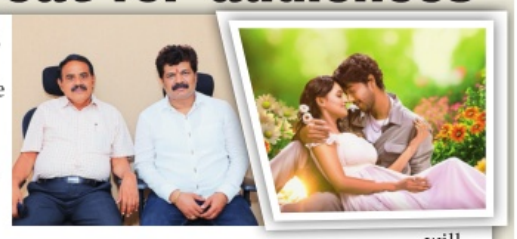
Rashmika Mandanna recently interacted with her fans on Instagram, sharing her current favorite Korean and Chinese dramas. While responding to a fan's request for K-drama recommendations, she mentioned 'Love Scout,' 'The First Frost,' and 'The Undercover High School.'

Rashmika Mandanna engages with fans on Instagram The 'Dear Comrade' actress took to her Instagram story after a short break from the platform. She posted a picture of herself and wrote, "Hello, hello, helloooo. So sorry I'd gone off Insta for some time now... I know you didn't realize because my team was doing a good job handling it (thaaaaaankieeee, my cuties), but I am back now. 1- I hope you lovelies have been doing well and taking care of yourselves. 2- What's up? What did I miss?"

She also added a question box asking her followers, "Anything I missed? Huh... huh? Tell me... tell me!" One of the questions that caught attention was a fan asking her to suggest some good K-dramas. To this, the 'Sikandar' actress excitedly replied, "I just finished watching Love Scout. There's this Chinese drama that I looooooved called The First Frost... so cute it was! And now I am watching something called The Undercover High School."

Another user also asked her about her most favorite K-drama. Rashmika replied, "Most favorite, hmmmm... Almost every series I've watched, so it's really hard to pick. But if I really have to, then I'd say, 'It's ok not to be okay.'" **—ETimes**

Visual treat for audiences



Manada Kadalu, the most awaited movie from EK Entertainers Pictures, is set to arrive in theatres on Friday. The movie is produced by E Krishnappa and directed by Yogaraj Bhat. The duo has joined hands after a gap of 18 years, so understandably, it has generated a lot of curiosity among movie buffs. The movie Mungaru Male, directed by Yogaraj Bhat and produced by E Krishnappa, had created a box-office record in Sandalwood in 2008. Now, Manada Kadalu is expected to break all records as it has all elements to cater to the needs of audiences. According to G Gangadhar, executive producer, Manada Kadalu is a family entertainer.

"We are known for clean movies. Our movies Mungaru Male, Mungaru Male 2, and Moggina Manasu are known for quality and good entertainment. Our latest movie Manada Kadalu will be a visual treat because it was shot at beautiful locations. This movie's shooting was held at Murud Janjira, a famous fort and tourist spot in Maharashtra, for six days. It was very tough to shoot at Murud Janjira," said Gangadhar.

Gangadhar said the members of Central Board of Film Certification have not recommended any mutes or cuts. "It is pure entertainment. The movie's songs have already become popular among music lovers. Watching this movie will be like a cool breeze in summer for audiences," he said.

The movie features Sumukha, Rashika Shetty, Anjali Anish, Rangayana Raghu, Dattanna, and others. **—BMB**

Aamir vs Salman

Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan made a lighthearted remark about his longtime friend and fellow actor Salman Khan, joking that Salman has a habit of "breaking ribs."

The two megastars joined director A.R. Murugadoss for a special Q&A session. Their engaging conversation, now officially released, provides deeper insights into their experiences, collaborations, and behind-the-scenes moments. In the video titled "Sikandar Meets Ghajini, "Aamir playfully asked Murugadoss, "Between Salman and me, who is the real Sikandar and who is the better dancer?" To this, the director jokingly replied, "Salman breaks his ribs. Aamir quickly added, "Sir, not just his own ribs, he breaks other people's ribs too! But I'm asking—who is the better dancer?"

Aamir then declared Salman the real Sikandar. The 'PK' actor then tells the filmmaker, Salman is the real Sikandar; he is the better dancer, now tell who's better in action.

In response, Salman humorously countered, "Who is the better actor? Who works harder? Who is more sincere"? To this, Aamir laughed and said, "All the boring things. No actor, also Salman is better." Their fun-filled banter delighted fans, showcasing the playful camaraderie between the two Bollywood icons. Notably, Salman and Aamir have shared a strong bond over the years. **IANS**

Trendy or not? Jessica's view

Hollywood actress Jessica Chastain is pointing to her favourite and least favourite style trends. The actress recently spoke about the style trend she wishes would come back. The actress shared that she is one to always dress how she wants to dress, reports 'People' magazine.

Chastain is the latest cover star for Elle Spain.

"I don't really pay attention to fashion trends in that way", she said. "If there was a trend that I'd secretly wish would come back, I would just wear it. I don't feel like, 'Oh I'm not allowed to wear that because people say'. So I don't really have one of those. I kind of just wear what I like".

As per 'People', she said that it is "quicker" for her to name her least favorite fashion trends.

"I know this is coming back, but the low-rise jeans I hate. And I hate when you see someone's underwear. I think it's so tacky like when it's like a G-string. I think it's horrific," she said. **—IANS**

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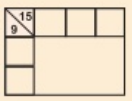
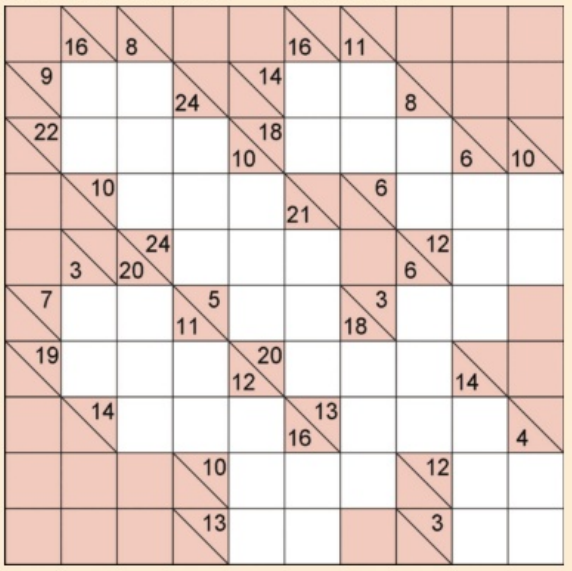
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

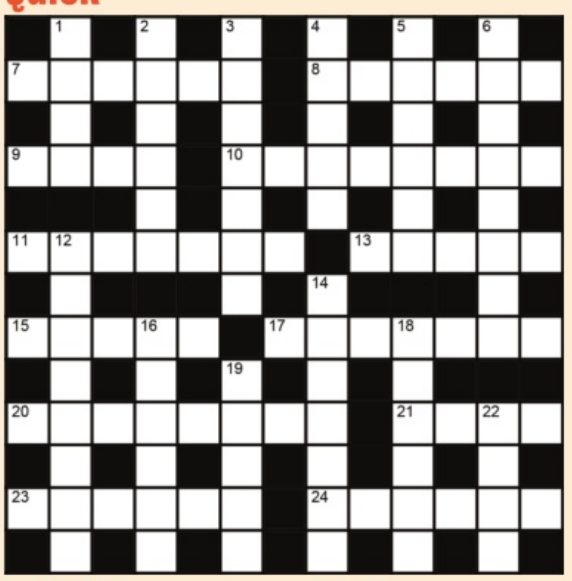


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Environment or surroundings (6)
8 Jail (6)
9 Charity bazaar (4)
10 Say or utter loudly (5,3)
11 Groom's helper (4,3)
13 Brownish colour (5)
15 Sudden gush (5)
17 Augury, sign or presage (7)
20 Al fresco bar at the Oberoi (4,4)
21 Fill a suitcase (4)
23 Pushes back (6)
24 Silly or annoying people (6)

DOWN

1 Split or cleave (4)
2 Most judicious (6)
3 Putin's compatriot (7)
4 Situated above (5)
5 Provoke laughter (6)
6 Answer (8)
12 Having a job (8)
14 Fights (7)
16 Absolutely still (6)
18 Struck light blows (6)
19 Perfect happiness (5)
22 Schoolboys' headgear (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: W EQUALS P

CEZ DFLC QFDDFJ GTX WZFWHZ OBPZ AW CEZBN WFGZN BL MX CEBJVBJO CEZX RFJ'C ETPZ TJX.

Linemaro

I will stop loving you whenan apple grows from a mango tree on the 30th of February

Mindchow

Teachers open the door but you must walk through it yourself

Joke of the day

The Higgs Boson walks into a church. The priest says, We don't allow Higgs Boson in here. The Higgs Boson says, But without me, how can you have mass?

Loop

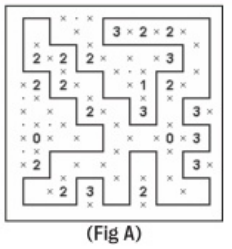
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

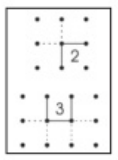
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

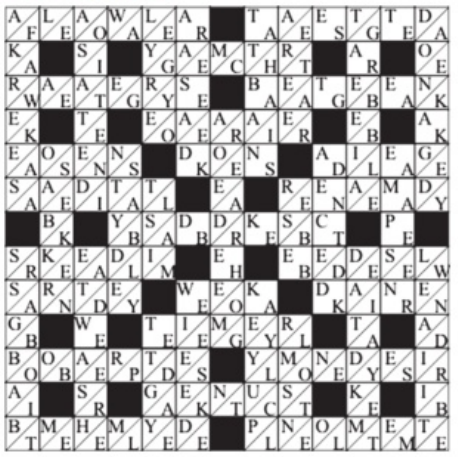


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

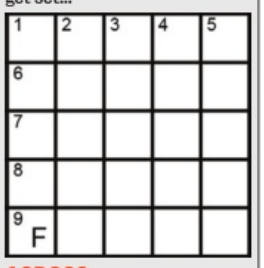
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

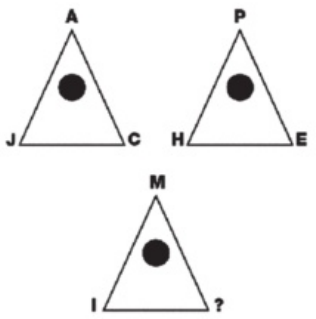
1 G and L; 6 Or rum; 7 A nine; 8 Sees a; 9 First

DOWN

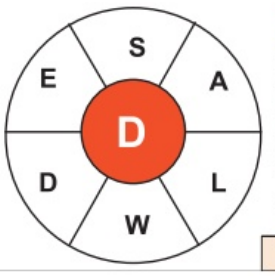
1 If Erg; 2 Ulnar; 3 Masai; 4 Tenon; 5 S Reds

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

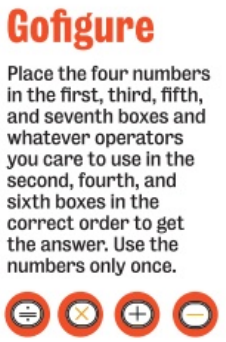
SudokuChallenge

7					2			
	6				7	3	8	
		3		5		1		
				7			2	9
2	4						3	1
6	7			9				
		8		2		4		
	3	6	8				9	
			1					5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

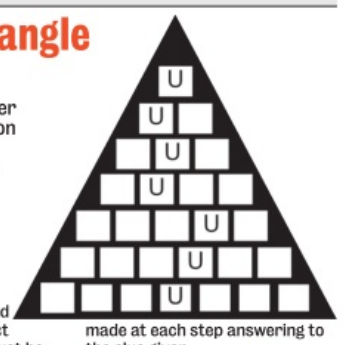
Differences: 1. Leg is lower. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Tie is longer. 4. Brick is moved. 5. Bumper is different. 6. Line is added to sidewalk.

Riddler

Your task here is to change one letter in each of the following words, in order to find seven words with a common theme. Stark, Curfew, Petrol, Oil, Strike, Thrash & Swat

Alpha triangle

1 Uranium symbol
2 _____and them
3 Altogether number
4 Artist's inspiration
5 Blood part
6 Curriculum vitae
7 Restarted

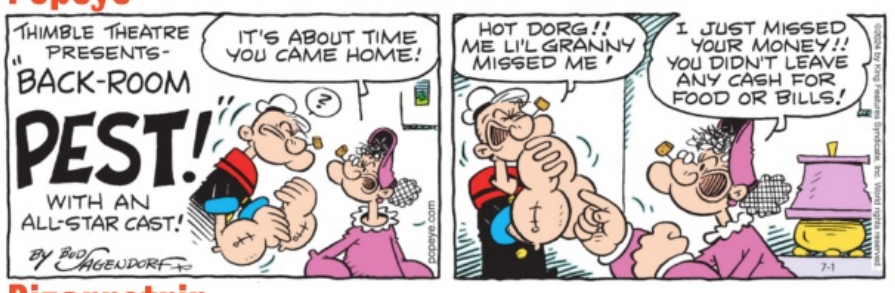


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS-
"BACK-ROOM PEST!"
WITH AN ALL-STAR CAST!
BY BUD SAGENDORF
IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU CAME HOME!
HOT DORG!! ME LI'L GRANNY MISSED ME!
I JUST MISSED YOUR MONEY!! YOU DIDN'T LEAVE ANY CASH FOR FOOD OR BILLS!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

Wayno & Piraro 12-21-24
BIZARRO.COM
I'll let you off with a warning, but pull those dandelions and keep the grass under six inches.
LAWN ORDER

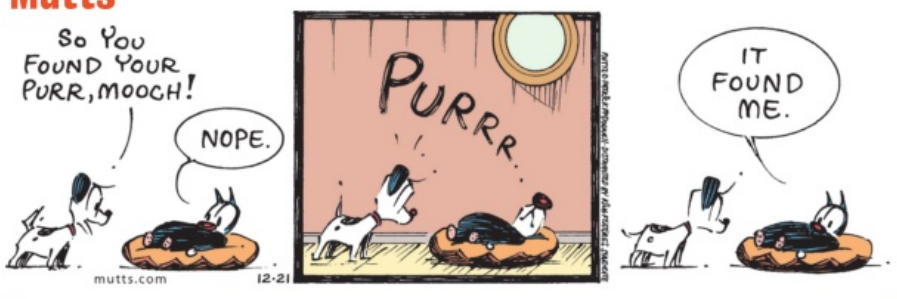
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

THERE HASN'T BEEN ANY SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ACROSS THE STREET IN A WHILE.
JUST A SAD KID WAITING ON GIFTS FROM SANTA.
THAT'S NICE THAT YOU'VE MADE A NEW FRIEND VIA WINDOW SIGNS.
IT IS NICE. MAYBE TOO NICE!! SUSPICIOUSLY NICE!!
OKAY, HEART.

Crankshaft

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
A positive day awaits you! Good news from your siblings will brighten your mood. Job seekers may land a good opportunity. Spiritual energy will guide you in making the right decisions, and your focus on your goals will be sharper. Students will have improved concentration in their studies.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may feel low today, both physically and mentally. Standing at a crossroads, decision-making might be difficult. Trust your intuition when making important choices. Drive safely and avoid adventure tourism. Self-doubt may lower your confidence, affecting your social image. Try to stay positive and patient.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A day of gains and achievements! Success will come with minimal effort, and past losses may turn into profits with your intelligence. You might consider pursuing further education or making intellectual investments. Acts of charity and helping the needy will bring inner satisfaction. Students will perform well in their studies.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Your professional performance will be outstanding today. Support from seniors and bosses will open doors to new opportunities, including a potential job change. Job seekers may find a suitable position. Singles might discover love at their workplace.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Your destiny favors you today! Confidence will soar as you manage things effortlessly. A visit to a spiritual place or a charitable act may bring peace of mind. A short business trip is likely. Blessings from elders will provide comfort, and lovebirds may receive family support regarding marriage.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
You may feel physically and mentally drained today. Minor health issues might disrupt your routine. Self-reflection may lead to overanalyzing negatives, making you feel isolated even in a crowd. However, with the guidance of elders, you will regain clarity and stability by evening.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Exciting business opportunities may come your way, promising future profits. New ideas and partnerships could be implemented successfully at work. However, being overly occupied may lead to mental exhaustion, which might impact your personal life. Balance is key.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Your workplace performance will be commendable, and colleagues will be supportive. Pending projects will be completed successfully. Financially, you may consider investments. Job seekers could receive good news. Those suffering from old health issues may experience relief.

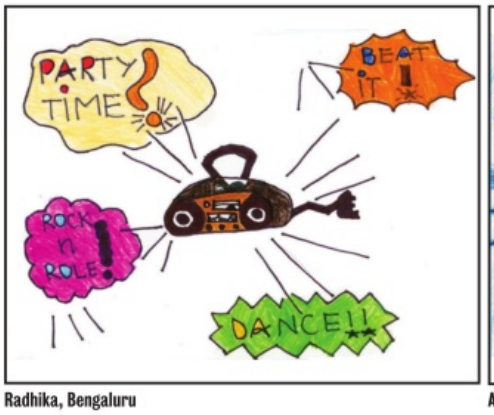
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Life may start feeling smoother, as people around you become more responsive. However, avoid seeing life as a burden. Challenges in achieving easy gains may persist, but blessings from elders will help you navigate them. Confusions regarding goals will be resolved

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Incomplete tasks and mood swings may test your patience today. Small mistakes could create confusion in your work. Lovebirds may struggle with emotional clarity, and unmet expectations might strain relationships. Take extra care of your parents. Students should work on improving focus.

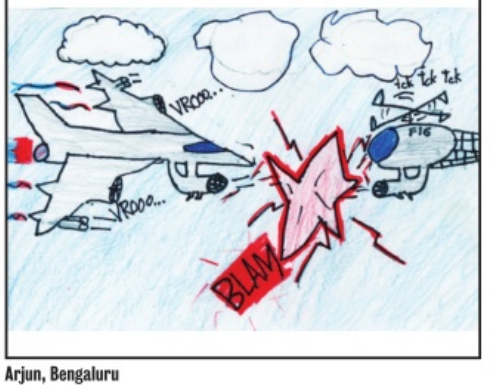
Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
With the help of your team, you will complete pending projects successfully. Your professional and social network will expand, benefiting you in the long run. A fun outing with friends or siblings is on the cards. Disputes with neighbors may be resolved. Students must overcome laziness and stay disciplined.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Family expenses may strain your finances today. Be mindful of spending and avoid unnecessary purchases. Think twice before taking any action. Keeping a check on your blunt speech will help maintain harmony in both your personal and professional life.

KIDZONE



Radhika, Bengaluru



Arjun, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

BULL'S EYE
addle, awed, dale, dawdle, dead, deal, lade, lead, lewd, saddle, sawed, sled, SWADDLE, waddle, wade, waded, weld

QUOTE UNCODE
The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don't have any.

RIDDLER
The common theme: they are all birds. Stork, Curlew, Petrel, Owl, Shrike, Thrush & Swan

FAST FIVE

G	L	A	N	D
R	U	M	O	R
I	N	A	N	E
E	A	S	E	S
F	R	I	T	S

STRIKE OUT

F	L	O	W	E	R		T	A	S	T	E	D		
A	S		Y	A	C	H	T		R		O			
W	A	T	E	R	S		A	E	G	E	A	N		
A		S		E		E		N		E		E		
K		E		E	R	I	E		B		K			
E	O	N	S		D	O	S		A	L	A	E		
S	A	D	A	T		A		E	N	E	M	E	Y	
	K		B	A	D	D	E	B	T		E			
R	E	A	L	M		H		B	E	D	E	W		
A	N	T	E		W	O	K		D	I	R	E		
B		E		E	I	G	E	R		A		A		
B	O	A	R	D	S		Y	O	N	D	E	R		
I		S		G	E	N	U	S		E		I		
T	E	E	M	E	D		P	E	L	M	E	T		

QUICK

			D		D		S		S		D		S	
		R		W		R		U		T		S		
	R	E	P	E	L	S		T	W	E	R	P	S	
		Y		T		I		A		P		A		
	P	O	L	O	C	L	U	B		P	A	C	K	
		L		O		B		M		A				
	S	P	U	R	T		P	O	R	T	E	N	T	
		M			N		C			O				
	B	E	S	T		M	A	N		S	E	P	I	A
		S		I			R		L		T			
	F	E	T	E		S	P	E	A	K	O	U	T	
		V		S		S		P		C		L		
	M	I	L	I	E	U		P	R	I	S	O	N	
		R		W		U		T		S				

SUDOKU

4	2	7	1	3	9	8	6	5
1	3	6	8	4	5	2	9	7
9	5	8	7	2	6	4	1	3
6	7	1	2	9	3	5	4	8
2	4	9	5	6	8	7	3	1
3	8	5	4	7	1	6	2	9
8	9	3	6	5	4	1	7	2
5	6	2	9	1	7	3	8	4
7	1	4	3	8	2	9	5	6

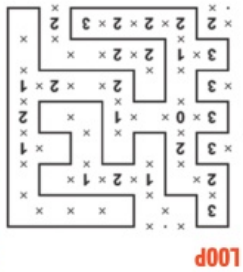
MENSA PUZZLE
V. Starting with the top left triangle, and moving clockwise around the other 2, letters advance through the alphabet in steps of 4, 5 and 6, with their relative positions moving 1 place clockwise around each triangle.

SOLVE IN 1M
(30÷2)÷(5÷4)
=15÷5÷4 = 3÷4 = 7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Us, Sum, Muse, Serum, Resume, Resumed.

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 8 − 7 + 5 = 8
Medium
5 + 6 / 1 + 3 = 14
Hard
5 − 2 + 4 × 4 = 28

LOOP



KAKURO

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Hosatu Hosatu Tarutide"

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